



ON DUTY — Navy Petty Officer Second Class Paul J. Pappas of Dansville is serving overseas as an aircraft maintenance specialist. He is assigned as a structural mechanic with Fleet Logistics Support Squadron 24 at the Naval Air Station Sigonella, Sicily. (Photo by Navy Journalist Millie Tamberg)

Dansville Man Serves Overseas Sailor Has Important Job

BY TOM LOGAN
Fleet Logistics Support Squadron 24 (VR-24) has 10 Navy cargo aircraft operating throughout the Mediterranean. Navy Petty Officer Second Class Paul J. Pappas, a 1978 Dansville High School graduate, helps keep those planes flying as an aviation structural mechanic.

Pappas, son of John J. Pappas of Dansville, maintains aircraft life support and emergency escape systems. He also ensures air conditioning, pressurization and de-icing equipment is functioning properly.

"My job is material readiness,"

the 27-year-old sailor explains. "When the airplanes have problems which prevent them from flying, I fix them."

"Our shop does a daily inspection on the aircraft," he says. "We usually don't have too much maintenance going on, so we do a lot of training and take care of work center administration."

Pappas works on VR-24's C-2 "Greyhounds" and T-39 "Sabreliners" at Naval Air Station Sigonella, near Catania, Sicily. The Greyhounds are propeller-driven cargo aircraft specially designed for delivering mail, parts and people to aircraft carriers. The Sabreliners are used primarily to transport people between the naval air station and other European military bases. Both are also used for medical evacuations.

Working on C-2 "Greyhounds" is familiar territory for Pappas.

"I worked on the old C-2s in the Philippines," he explains. "I knew the new C-2 was coming out, so I requested overseas shore duty to work on them. There weren't any openings when my enlistment expired, so I left the Navy for five months. I came back after being offered duty in Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, or Sigonella in Sicily."

"My wife and I go out to the marketplace about every weekend I have off—my wife enjoys buying fresh fish at the market. Sometimes, we drive up to Mt. Etna (Europe's highest active volcano) or go down one of the highways. Other times, we take some back road and follow it. I figure I couldn't get too lost. I'm on an island I could drive around in six

hours and there's a lot of signs pointing the way to Catania."

Occasionally, VR-24 units go to other countries to support a temporary mission or operation.

"My detachment to Israel was hectic," he recalls. "We tried to work out of two airports—one in Tel Aviv and one in Jerusalem—we never knew which one our plane was going to land in. Last year, I was in 'Northern Wedding,' an exercise in Norway. We had an outstanding detachment there, and everything went really well."

Pappas plans to ask for duty in Rota, Spain, when he leaves VR-24 in December. "I've been overseas since 1979, and I've only been in the states once for about five months. Duty here has been unique. Some of the operational commitments that we get require a lot of long hours, but it's the kind of challenge we can meet. It's our job."

(Logan is a Navy journalist assigned to the Navy Public Affairs Center, Norfolk, VA.)

Housing Unit May Help You

People with housing-related problems who live in northern Steuben, southern Ontario, and Livingston counties can seek help from Steuben-Livingston Agricultural Project (S.L.A.P.), a non-profit organization funded by the State Division of Housing and Community Renewal.

The director of the program, Tom Carey, hopes that S.L.A.P.'s impact on these communities will be significant due to the variety of counseling programs being offered to help both young and elderly homeowners and renters.

Because no fee is involved, interested people can obtain information on programs which S.L.A.P. provides at the office, 1 North Main St. in Cohocton or by calling 384-5239.

DOT Names New Area Director

State Transportation Commissioner Franklin E. White announced the appointment of Lewis Gurley as DOT's new Genesee Valley regional director.

Genesee Valley Region is headquartered in Rochester and is comprised of Genesee, Livingston, Monroe, Ontario, Orleans and Wyoming counties. Approximately 1,000 people are employed by the department in the region. Some 325 work in the regional office and 675 in the five county residences.

Since 1983, Gurley has served as a district engineer for the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation, supervising 4,000 miles of state highway system in a six-county area of northwestern Pennsylvania. From 1981 to 1983 he was assistant district engineer for maintenance there.

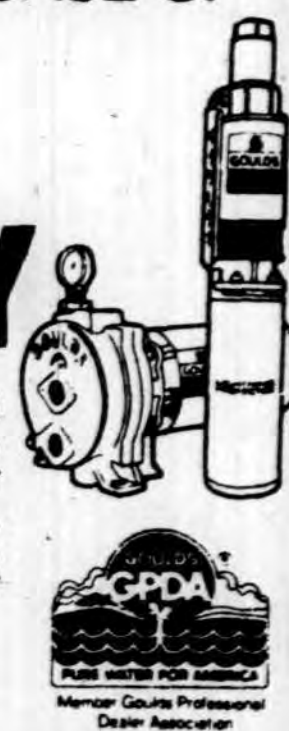
Gurley worked for New York DOT from 1965 until 1981, progressing through the department in positions as traffic engineer, regional transportation planning director and chief of program management bureau, until he became assistant director of Region One. He replaces Robert W. Purple who retired last month.

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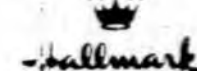
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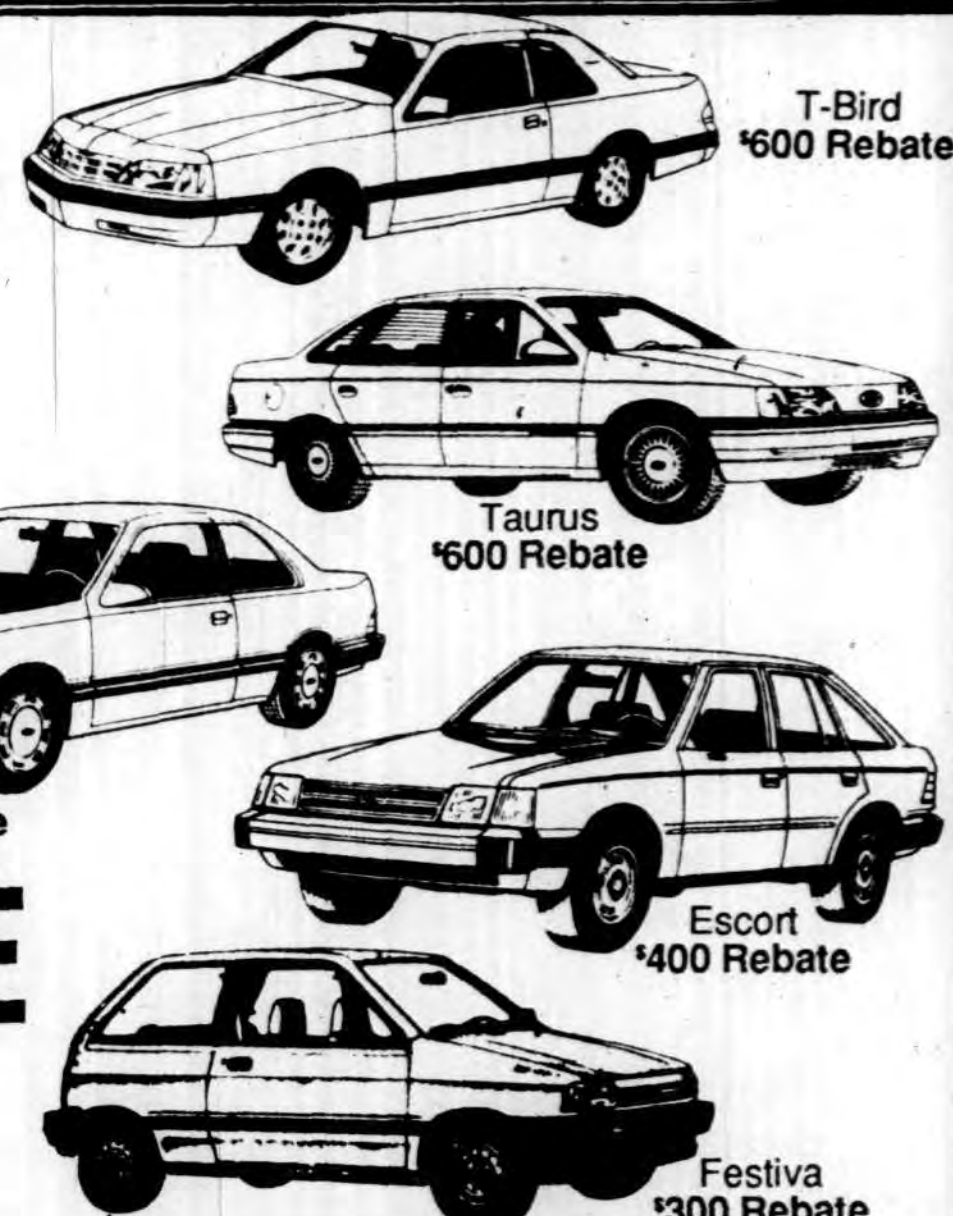
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